

LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Board of Health

March 10, 2020

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 5:07 PM by James Michael Bowers at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. Members Present: James Michael Bowers, Dustin Loy, Katie Garcia, Sean Flowerday, Stephanie Jarrett, Stacie Bleicher, Jacqueline Miller, Tom Randa, Tim Sieh for Rick Tast (ex-officio), Adelle Burk (ex-officio), and Jenifer Holloway (ex-officio).

Members Absent: Jasmine Kingsley.

Staff Present: Pat Lopez, Kathy Cook, Gwendy Meginnis, Christina Hitz, Dave Humm, Amy Schlichting, Jesse Davy, Tim Timmons, Tommy George, Steve Beal, Scott Holmes and Angel Edwards.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bowers asked if there were any corrections to the Agenda. No corrections were requested.

Motion: Moved by Ms. Miller to approve the agenda as printed. Second by Mr. Flowerday. Motion carried by a 8-0 roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bowers asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes. No corrections were requested.

Motion: Moved by Ms. Garcia that the February 11, 2020 Minutes be approved as printed. Second by Mr. Randa. Motion carried by a 8-0 roll call vote.

II. PUBLIC SESSION

IV. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ms. Lopez started by asking David Humm to introduce the new Health Promotion Wellness Coordinator, Amy Schlichting. Amy has been working in public health and education for the last 15 years and she is excited to encourage healthy lifestyles.

The Health Department has been working with the City and the County regarding Wellness Programing, including administration of the flu vaccine.

A. Board of Health Annual Meeting

The Animal Control Manager, Steve Beal, has been assisting in the preparation for the Annual Meeting. There is a possibility that the meeting could be canceled due to COVID-19, but at this time they are going ahead with plans. The meeting will take place on the morning of April 6th at the Lincoln Station and invitations have been mailed. During the breakfast a slide show and awards will be given out. The Mayor and the President of the Board of Health, James Michael Bowers, will be presenting awards.

This year the Public Health and Information Manager, Kathleen Cook, will be awarded with the Carole Douglas Public Health Achievement Award. Kathy has been a leader in her contributions to public health. Kathy stated “I am honored and I love what I do in public health”.

B. Corona Virus Update

The Communicable Disease Supervisor, Tim Timmons, gave an update on the current COVID-19 situation in the State of Nebraska. There are currently 3 cases in the state, and none in Lancaster County. The first case in Omaha was from an individual who traveled and participated in the Special Olympics basketball game in Fremont on February 29th. Contact in Lincoln was made with players who were then quarantined for 14 days. The second and third case involved two individuals who were related. Additional commercial lab testing sites are coming onboard to relieve the lab at the Public Health System. The Health Department is anticipating a case in Lancaster County any day. Quarantine and isolation will help to control the spread. The number one concern will be stress on the healthcare system as a whole.

Stacie Bleicher asked “Are you going to be informing the practices about what private labs they can do labs and do they understand how patients can go in to get testing done if they are concerned they need the test and where that’s going to happen?” Tim stated that “it will happen through the providers office”.

Katie Garcia asked “What is the test exactly?” Tim replied that it was “a nasal swab”. The Health Department is encouraging providers to run a flu test prior to the COVID swab since the symptoms are similar. This will help in utilizing the scarce tests when needed.

Pat Lopez then explained that we are currently in “Incident Command” that includes Lincoln Fire & Rescue, Police, Sheriffs and others throughout the City. The Mayor provided three press conferences regarding COVID-19. We are recommending

individuals over the age of 60 years old with underlying health problems should think about avoiding “large events”. All departments are making sure plans are in place for “essential services”. Pat met with Dr. Anthone, the new Chief Medical Officer for the State, attended a local health provider meeting regarding COVID-19. The Mayor and Ms. Lopez had a chance to meet with The Governor to review the role of the local Health Department when allocating resources and to remember our local communities. For COVID-19, the Governors office then reached out to Pat to do a briefing for Senators on “What is the response of the local Health Department for COVID-19?”. At the end of the day they decided to allocate 1.5 million dollars across the state for local public health. On Thursday, Child Care Centers and Schools will meet at The Health Department to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on child care operations. A new hotline (402-441-8006) and website link for COVID-19 has been set up for the public when they have questions and cards were handed out to the Board members.

County Commissioner, Sean Flowerday, then stated that Lancaster County spent much of their day discussing the Continuity of Operations plans. Pat asked “Can a County Sheriff attend the morning briefings?” Sean responded that “I already asked them to attend.”

Adelle Burk, asked “how can we dispel the myth of discrimination of the Asian Americans and their community?” Pat replied that we have been getting additional information posted on Facebook and Raju is monitoring this situation.

Jackie Miller asked Tim Timmons “How many tests have been actually been done in the state?” Tim responded that “well over 100 tests have been completed”.

Dustin Loy asked “What do you expect in capacity over the next couple of weeks with these new labs, can you elaborate on the number, 3,000?” The public health lab currently has over 1,000 tests. Pat also talked about several school closings and will be working with local schools to get information out to the public.

James Michael said “I think you are doing a great job, I think everyone at the Health Department is doing a great job and I think it’s a true testament to everyone’s skills here. Thank you for all your doing Pat and all the staff, thank you for all your doing”. Sean Flowerday said “Everyone has been impressed with the work that the Health Department has been doing, so Thank You”.

V. CURRENT BUSINESS (Action Items)

A. Food Advisory Committee Appointment

Environmental Health Manager, Scott Holmes, presented for Justin Daniel who was unable to attend. Scott proposed the new appointment of Zoe Olson to the Food Advisory Committee. Zoe is the Nebraska Restaurant Association Executive Director and has more than 30 years of experience.

Motion: Ms. Miller made a motion that the Board support the appointment of Zoe Olson to the Food Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bleicher. Motion carried 8-0 by a roll call vote.

B. Board of Health Annual Report

James Michael spoke about The Annual Report and updates regarding the Divisions. On the Health Director's page a tribute to Shavonna Lausterer was included. Once approved this information will be uploaded to the website with live links.

Motion: Mr. Loy made a motion that the Board support the Annual Report for publishing to the website. The motion was seconded by Ms. Miller. Motion carried 8-0 by a roll call vote

VI. CURRENT BUSINESS (Information Item)

A. LB 1018: James Michael Bowers gave a brief overview of the appropriations of state funding for all Health Departments for 1.5 million dollars. A budget has been presented but not yet voted on.

B. LB 840: Dave Humm spoke about the legislation mirroring the ordinance that the City of Lincoln recently passed regarding vaping in the "Clean Indoor Air Act". The definition of "Vaping" and enforcement are being discussed.

C. LB 1105: Gwendy Meginnis gave an update regarding pediatric dental audits for Medicaid Providers through pier-to-pier review and criteria review. The impact on the local Health Departments and "at risk kids" will have significant changes to care for the public. Many Medicaid providers are currently repealing their audits. A letter of support was submitted by the Board of Health rebuking DHHS. James Michael asked "What did DHHS say was their reason for opposing it?" Gwendy responded that their reply was vague and hard to understand.

VII. FUTURE BUSINESS

Pat will give a report regarding the meeting that took place between herself, Randa, Bowers, Flowerday and Yoakum.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting – April 14, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Ms. Garcia that the meeting adjourn. Second by Mr. Flowerday. Motion carried by a 8-0 roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Angel Edwards
Recording Secretary

Katie Garcia, DDS
Vice President